

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

MAKING POSSIBLE RICH RETURNS IN SCHOOL EXPERIMENTATION

A GIFT of \$400,000. has been subscribed by 364 patrons of the Lincoln School and the Trustees of Teachers College to the Lincoln School. Of this sum approximately \$100,000 will be used to build a swimming pool. The larger part of the sum will be used for the erection of an annex to provide much needed facilities for the rapidly expanding investigations of the Institute of Educational Research. Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, who since its establishment has been the Director of the Lincoln School, and at the same time Director of the Division of School Experimentation and under whose successful administration both the Lincoln School and the Division of School Experimentation have made such rapid strides, will devote his full time to the Lincoln Institute of School Experimentation. This institute will include the investigational work of the Lincoln School and such other studies as may later be assigned to it.

The next annex to the Lincoln School will provide for the expansion of the work of

the Institute and will enable it to greatly enlarge its program of school experimentation under the full time direction of Dr. Caldwell.

The General Education Board has given Teachers College \$1,000,000 toward the endowment of the Lincoln School. The income from this sum is to be applied on the reduction of the annual allowance of \$150,000 which the General Education Board has been granting to the Lincoln School.

The trustees of Teachers College announce the appointment of Dr. Jesse H. Newlon, now Superintendent of Schools in Denver, Colorado, as Director of the Lincoln School and Professor of Education in Teachers College. He will assume his office on September 1, 1927.

Dr. Newlon is a graduate of Indiana University. He received the Master's degree from Teachers College in 1914 and in 1922 the degree of L. L. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Denver. He has been High School Principal in the Public Schools of Indiana and Illinois and in 1917 was elected Superintendent of Schools in Lincoln, Nebraska. Since 1920 Dr. Newlon has served as Superintendent of Schools for Denver, Colorado. In 1924-25 he was elected President of the National Education Association. In 1925 he was awarded the Butler Silver Medal. This medal is awarded annually in silver or bronze to the graduate of Columbia University in any of its parts, who has during the year preceding shown the most competence in philosophy or in education theory, practice, or administration. It was awarded to Dr. Newlon "in recognition of his creative work in the administration of the school in the city of Denver, particularly his leadership in scientific study and revision of the curriculum." Dr. Newlon was the first Superintendent of Schools to be awarded this distinction.

Dr. Newlon has a national reputation as an educational administrator and one of the foremost educators in school experi-

mentation. The reconstruction of the curriculum for the Public Schools of Denver under his direction is the most outstanding example of research work in this field.

READING WITH A PURPOSE

May first marks the beginning of the third year of the American Library Association's experiment with its Reading with a Purpose courses. In two years twenty-three courses have been published and are in use by individuals and groups throughout the country. That the American public does serious reading when it knows what to read has been demonstrated. More than a quarter of a million copies have been sold. Among the courses are *The Modern Drama* by Barrett H. Clark, *The Physical Sciences* by Edwin E. Slosson, *Religion in Everyday Life* by Wilfred T. Grenfell, *Ears to Hears A Guide for Music Lovers* by Daniel Gregory Mason, *Psychology and Its Use* by Everett Dean Martin, and *The Europe of Our Day* by Herbert Adams Gibbons. Each course consists of a brief introduction and a short list of readable books recommended for consecutive reading.

Other courses are in preparation, among them two by Hamlin Garland and William Stearns Davis on certain aspects of history as told in fiction. People from all over the country, young and old, college professors and grammar school graduates are taking the courses.

In a little hill town of Massachusetts nine of its 270 inhabitants met regularly during the winter to discuss the books recommended by Dallas Lore Sharp in *Some Great American Books*, and all nine completed the course, including the postmistress, a young farmer and his wife and mother, the minister, the librarian, and three teachers. In a city in the South eleven high school graduates, who found it impossible to go to college, are continuing their education under the direction of the high school librarian by means of Reading with a Purpose. Col-

lege professors are using Alexander Meiklejohn's *Philosophy* as supplementary reading in their classes. A single branch library in Chicago has 190 patrons who have completed courses. Several of them have read two or more and one is completing her fourth. The Boston Public Library alone has sold 11,490 copies of the booklets.

Librarians are basing public book talks on them, individuals are sending them to friends in place of Christmas and Easter cards, women in farm communities are forming groups to study *Our Children* by M. V. O'Shea.

Other adult education agencies than the library are putting the courses to work: the educational departments of Y. M. and Y. W. C. A.'s, women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, the educational departments of industrial concerns.

In at least four states certificates are granted for the completion of the courses: in Indiana by the University Extension Department, in Illinois by the State Library Extension Division, in Michigan by the Extension Division of the State Agricultural College, and in Oklahoma by the Extension Service of the State University.

State library extension agencies in twenty-two states provide the courses and the books recommended to small libraries which cannot afford to buy them and to individuals who are out of range of library service.

Individuals from every walk of life have written their appreciation of the courses, among them a dealer in old metals, a former United States Cabinet member, stenographers, business men, mothers, high school students, and college professors.

The Reading with a Purpose experiment is a part of the library's adult education program. A recent editorial in the *Hartford Courant* calls it "a heartening sign of the times."

The next meeting of the American Library Association will be held in Toronto, June 20-27, 1927.

RELATION OF DEFECTIVE EYE-SIGHT AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Defective eyesight contributes to Juvenile delinquency, according to Guy A. Henry, General Director of the Eyesight Conservation Council of America, who in a statement urges parents on Child Health Day to consider the vision of their girls and boys.

Child Health Day, general observance of which has been asked in proclamations by mayors of cities and other officials throughout the country, should be made an event of moral and physical significance in every household where there are children, declared Mr. Henry, who is directing a nationwide campaign for better vision in education and industry.

Investigation by the Eyesight Council, Mr. Henry asserted, has shown that "bad eyes make bad boys," and that the experience of Juvenile Courts proves that defective vision makes children truants. Each year more than 200,000 children come before these courts, eye conservation in the home and in the schools, according to Mr. Henry, should be employed as a factor in checking criminal tendencies.

"Juvenile Courts," Mr. Henry continued, "are finding that bad eyesight leads to inattention in school, to unfair competition, and to disrespect for authority. Bad eyes lead to truancy and the truant child is a criminal in embryo."

"Seventy-five per cent of all adult offenders start as criminals before they are twenty-one years old, and progress from petty to capital crimes is rapid. Parents must try to understand their children, for with understanding comes the explanation of wayward tendencies, which if uncorrected may develop unfortunate consequences even in the best of children.

"It has already been demonstrated that fully twenty-five per cent of the 24,000,000 school children of this country are suffering

from manifest defective vision, and this situation is likely to grow worse if practical steps, with parents and teachers co-operating, are not taken. Much has been done by the Eyesight Conservation Council in the schools of the country, and much more will be done in the future, but lasting results are impossible without the aid of the home.

"It seems evident, from a general review of the entire subject of eyesight conservation, that approximately twenty-five per cent of all school children in the United States are retarded in their studies and that fully one-third of the retardations are in all probability due to defective vision.

"If this is correct, there are at least 2,000,000 school children in the United States one or more grades behind in their studies because of defective vision. The annual loss of retardation due to this cause alone is about \$130,000,000.

BOOKS

AIDS FOR THE BEGINNING TEACHER

BEGINNING TEACHING. By Joseph E. Avent. Published by the author, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 1926. Pp. xv -|- 599. \$2.50.

PRESENT-DAY STANDARDS FOR TEACHING. By F. Burke Fitzpatrick, Dansville, N. Y.: F. A. Owen Publishing Co. 1926. Pp. 208.

In *Beginning Teaching* Dr. Avent has prepared material for a very definite person, the young teacher with the minimum of training who finds himself at the helm of a school and without supervision. The book therefore meets the needs best of the young men and women attending our summer schools for one or two terms only, and those who enter the teaching work by the examination route.

This book divides into two nearly equal parts dealing with the technique of instruction and with school management. One notes at once the almost total neglect of the problem of curriculum organization and is